

what form that action will come and when it is to be expected is not divulged officially, but diplomats say the next move is obvious.

It will be in the form of a warning to Germany on the submarine issue and calculated not only to protect further infringement of American rights but to advertise to the Entente Powers that the United States Government is not seeking to play Germany's game at the present stage of the war.

The fact that Germany has received the President's warning for peace with open arms also makes the opportunity of the submarine pledge particularly timely, it is said. The Imperial Government has held the advocates of relentless submarine warfare in check by emphasizing the important role which the United States might play in any peace overture.

Therefore it is felt at the State Department that opinion in Germany will be overwhelmingly against a resumption of relentless submarine warfare to the point of causing friction between the Imperial and United States governments.

The statement made public by Secretary Lansing to-day was not the only indication that President Wilson was seeking to placate the Entente. The President was conveniently "out" when a special committee of the American Neutral Conference, Committee of the United States, met in New York to present to him a letter from Bertrand Russell, the British pacifist lecturer and philosopher, appealing for an end to the war in Europe.

The committee consisted of George Foster Peabody, Paul U. Kellogg and Miss Emily Greene Balch.

The President knew they were coming and left instructions that the letter be received by Mr. Tumulty, his secretary. Mr. Tumulty greeted the committee and took the letter with him to the routine ceremony that would characterize the handing in of any document for the President's consideration.

He did not tell the committee that the President, because of the present conditions on the international horizon, was very happy indeed not to see them, but officials explained that this move was virtually necessary in view of the present efforts of the Administration not to offend further the Entente nations, their people and their statesmen.

Seek Belligerents' Views Only.
Information as to their exact meaning in seeking a "just and permanent peace" is the whole purpose of the note addressed to all the belligerents by President Wilson. The United States desires a full, practical and detailed statement from each of the governments addressed, it was stated officially to-day by the Administration.

This Government does not know and does not wish to know what the real means of knowing what terms would be required by each of the belligerents to make peace. It regards the recent speeches of the leading statesmen in all countries as vague and undefined and sees nothing in them that would enable a conference to draw up a treaty. All speak of the rights of all parties and of the repugnance of conquest and the guarantee of a permanent peace, but no one nation has yet gone into what it means by those phrases.

As the largest neutral facing grave problems and as the friend of all parties concerned the United States feels most keenly that it is entitled to know these facts. Unless some one of the groups lays down the terms, there will be no basis for negotiation and no possibility of peace till the world is bled white, officials declare.

See "Fighting for Same Objects."

The early resentment in London and Paris on the assumption that the President's note declared both belligerents were fighting for the same objects is regarded as unwarranted at the State Department, where to-day it was said great pains had been taken to avoid that very inference.

Stress was laid on the President's words to show that he had not expressed any conviction that both sets of belligerents were fighting for the same objects. On the other hand the language of the note, it was pointed out specifically, said the statements of both groups of belligerents had no stated their objects in general terms to the people of their own countries. Officials were gratified to see this view being pointed out in some of the later foreign comment received to-day.

The phrase was written, it was said, after study of the more recent statements of the belligerents rather than the statements at the time they entered the war. Then the avowed objects of all the nations were more specific, Italy, for instance, coming into the war with an official statement of what she felt necessary for her future. Since then, however, on all sides it is felt a constantly increasing vagueness has been growing up which now is expanding into the most nebulous terms. General hostility to the note at first, both in allied and Teutonic countries, was conveyed in news dispatches, was regarded by officials as one of the most hopeful signs as it indicated that the note was neutral.

PRAISES WILSON'S NOTE.

Italian Paper, "Popolo Romano,"

Calls It Great World Event.

ROME (via Paris), Dec. 23.—The *Popolo Romano* in its comment on President Wilson's note to the belligerents alludes to its assurance as the great world event of the day. Its tone is characterized as friendly but firm, with a certain amount of the judge who proposes to wield the sword of Solomon, wishing to end the war.

The Paris and London press, this newspaper thinks, has not caught the true meaning of the note, and it expresses the belief that after mature consideration it will find its first impressions altered, at least in part. Indeed, adds the *Popolo Romano*, it is unwise to give the impression that the Entente Allies are wounded by the President's note, which, it says, takes in the main the intentions of each group of belligerents to ascertain if mutually peace is possible and to regulate the future actions of America toward promoting integrity and justice among the nations.

OPINION IN VIENNA.

Belief Is That Peace Idea Is Likely to Prevail.

VIENNA, Dec. 23.—The keynote of the comment in the Vienna press on President Wilson's note to the belligerents is that the idea of peace thus brought forward will not easily be discarded.

The *Zeit* says: "It is to be hoped that President Wilson's action will further the bringing about of peace, but it may also have the opposite effect."

The *Arbeiter Zeitung* welcomes the fact that a neutral Power has spoken for the first time.

The *Neue Wiener Journal* says: "President Wilson, in any event, has brought humanity a great step nearer to peace."

The *Reichspost* remarks: "If President Wilson's action really will contribute to peace it will be welcomed."

EXILED BELGIANS SENT BACK.

320 Workmen Deported by German Authorities Returned.

BERLIN (by wireless), Dec. 23.—It is announced officially that 320 workmen who had been transported from Belgium to Germany have been returned to their homes in response to a number of complaints. Other cases are being investigated as speedily as possible.

The return of the workmen is made under the rules prescribed by Gen. von Bissing, Governor-General of the occupied portions of Belgium.

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FOOD RIOTS IN DRESDEN.

100 Women Hurt in Fight With Troops and Police.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—A Rotterdam despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company says that there were food riots in Dresden on December 17, 18 and 19. Troops were called to help the police in suppressing the trouble, which arose from the closing of several food shops on Sunday because they were without stocks. Women stoned the shops on Sunday and they marched through the streets.

There was another parade on Monday, when the paraders carried the King's palace shouting for food. Several women are said to have been arrested for using insulting language about the King. The disturbances were renewed on Tuesday when a sharp fight occurred, in which 100 women and three policemen are reported to have been wounded. The soldiers charged the crowds and cleared the streets.

England Wants Cargo Ships.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The Times says it learns the Government is working on a program for building a large number of its standardized cargo steamers for Government use.

MONROE DOCTRINE SAFE, SAYS LANSING

Secretary Says World Peace League Plan Would Not Upset U. S. Policy.

ALLIANCE IS NECESSARY

American Interests Require This Nation to Abandon Tradition, He Believes.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Secretary Lansing discussed to-day the possibility of the United States abandoning its traditional policy of holding aloof from entangling alliances in order to play a role in preventing future wars. As pointed out in *The Sun* editorial yesterday, Mr. Lansing admits that this contingency fairly faces this Government in associating itself with any world league to enforce peace.

But Secretary Lansing makes the distinction that although this would imply cooperation of the United States in European affairs it would not necessarily mean the surrender of the position we have always maintained since the promulgation of the Monroe Doctrine concerning the territorial integrity of the countries of the Western Hemisphere.

Monroe Doctrine Not a Treaty.
In explaining how the evolution of international diplomacy might make a change in our time honored policy essential it is pointed out that the Monroe Doctrine is not a treaty but a declaration of policy. In our own interests it means that the territorial integrity of this hemisphere must be recognized by the nations of Europe.

There is no need, it is said, of altering this policy because of the establishment of a league to enforce peace, even though European nations might cooperate with the United States in preventing wars in the Western Hemisphere. President Wilson's declaration that the United States is willing to cooperate with European nations to safeguard the peace of the world is admittedly pledging the United States to something to which it is not in the power of the President to do without the consent of the Senate.

But the President is assuming that the Senate would ratify a treaty for the accomplishment of this object, although it is realized that the terms of the treaty would be most carefully scrutinized. And it is assumed by the Administration that the Senate would make a point of not surrendering the cardinal idea of the Monroe Doctrine.

Secretary Lansing apparently favors the idea of the United States joining with other European nations in a compact to preserve peace, because he regards some such measure essential in the light of present international conditions.

The United States is no longer in a position to remain indifferent to wars in Europe. American interests are bound to be seriously and vitally affected, as indeed they have been in the present war, and American rights are, Mr. Lansing has pointed out, necessarily placed in jeopardy.

The views of Mr. Lansing are along the lines of the statement made by President Wilson last May in enforcing the League to Enforce Peace. Mr. Wilson at that time said the present war had demonstrated that in future wars of the present magnitude it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the United States to remain neutral.

ALLIES' ANSWER IS NEARLY READY

Continued from First Page.

addressed to all belligerents, and says that a careful reading of the passage in which President Wilson suggests that both sides are fighting for the same and reveals that the President said that this is what the belligerents tell their own countrymen. Continuing the *Guardian* says:

"Coming on top of Germany's suggestion of negotiations the note appears to associate itself with the German view and the reference to measures which the United States may have to take reads at first a little too like a suggestion of peace. However, it must be borne in mind that a note couched in similar if not identical terms is being sent to all the belligerents, and if President Wilson wants to make either side peace-loving, without departing from the appearance of strict neutrality, avoid addressing the same words to the other. For our part it will require the very strongest evidence to persuade us that in the face of the great volume of sympathy for the allied cause, which we are assured of on either side, the Atlantic any act seriously prejudicial to our cause can be contemplated in Washington."

Another passage in the note which comes in for even more criticism also acquires a different value so soon as we think ourselves that it is addressed to both parties. This is the side paragraph which appears to suggest a real identity of views as between the belligerents. When the passage is carefully read it seems to say not that the two belligerent parties have the same views or are fighting for the same ends, but that they profess to be doing so, when the government justifies the war to their own countrymen. This is a very different proposition and the passage as read by a German of any humor might be taken as a very severe piece of sarcasm."

Sounds a Warning.
The *Guardian* then sounds a warning against the "Allies being betrayed into playing Germany's game because if we put ourselves wrong with America we do play Germany's game," and adds this advice:

"Let us avoid imputing motives, take the President's note at its face value as a perfectly sincere document meaning simply what it says. The President believes he is two belligerent allies to be less far apart than appears on the surface. Washington probably has means of information that are not fully available to us, and if this view is taken at Washington, it gives us a valuable hint as to the mind of Germany and conditions in Germany which are working upon the minds of her rulers."

In any case, believing rightly or wrongly, Germany would go further to meet us than we suppose. Dr. Wilson suggests that the two sides compare views. Again he is remembered that this suggestion is addressed to both sides, and not to one alone.

"Now the only views that we have from Germany, are first, that she considers herself victorious and, secondly, that she invites us to negotiate. The first proposition we deny. As to the second, we want to know something of the basis of the negotiations."

Next Move Up to Germany.

"Clearly the next move is with Germany, and if Germany were to make a definite reply it would suffice to show whether the anticipations of the note are well or are ill founded. For example, we demand the integral restoration of the territories Germany has invaded. This is definite and admits of an equally definite reply. If and when Germany accepts we will in time take up the other points. We do not know

whether the President imagines Germany will accept it under the present conditions, but at least he must admit that if she refuses there is not by any means that approximation of views which he assumes, and in that case the foundation of his case falls away.

"Neither he nor American opinion can blame us if we continue to fight for the independence of Belgium and Serbia and refuse to purchase it at the expense of any other ally. Again, we think reparation is due Belgium for spoliation of her cities, and even more now for the enslavement of her citizens. No American will question this."

"In other words, we do not believe it is possible for Germany to state her own case in reply to the demands we have put forward as to commend it to any neutral nation like America with strong democratic sympathies and humane feelings."

"This is the reason why we believe that the note, if coolly considered and not hastily answered, will be a cause and throw into stronger relief the moral weakness of the German position. If, on the other hand, we resent every suggestion of peace which is bent on seeing German mischiefmaking in every mention of an end to the war, we shall quite gratuitously be placing ourselves in an unenviable light."

Secret Submarine Threat.
A majority of the evening newspapers here take the view that the speech of King George on purporting to make a note to which he said that a "vigorous prosecution of the war must be our single endeavor" was an adequate reply to the American note.

Whether the President has been over simple or over subtle the evident fact is that he has blundered and unless the blunder be promptly revoked it may bring evil and irreparable fruit. What should not be done is to withdraw the note and let its deplorable effects be assumed as best they may by the forces of time and silence."

The *Evening Standard* thinks President Wilson was induced to take the step by a German threat of a ruthless submarine campaign and says that Secretary of State Lansing's reference to this verse on war must have referred to this. The *Evening Globe* takes the same view. An Amsterdam despatch to the Post mentioned a rumor there that Germany had threatened the neutral Powers announcing that a ruthless submarine war would be inaugurated unless peace was concluded, and another rumor that Germany planned to close the Mediterranean by means of submarines. The correspondent was unable to obtain any confirmation of these rumors, but his statement as to the United States standing near the verge of war was due to such suggestions.

\$100,000 FOR ARMENIANS.

Amount Cabled From New York for Relief in Turkey.

One hundred thousand dollars was cabled yesterday to the American Consul in Beirut, Turkey, by the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief for distribution by missionaries and the consular staff among ill and starving Armenians and Syrians.

Half of the money was raised by a committee of local Syrians and Armenians, working chiefly among their fellow countrymen, and the rest was contributed by the American committee.

Sir Albert Stanley in Commons.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Sir Albert H. Stanley, President of the Board of Trade in the reconstructed Cabinet of Premier Lloyd George, was today elected to the House of Commons for Ashton-under-Lyne without opposition. He succeeded in the House of Commons Sir William M. Aitken, who has been raised to the peerage by King George.

TRENCH FIGHTING ON WESTERN FRONT

Severe Hand to Hand Combats Between Germans and the British.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Lively trench fighting and heavy bombardments are reported to-night on the front in France and Belgium by the various war offices. British troops raided German trenches in northern France, and Germans raided British trenches in Belgium. A German attack was beaten back by the French in Champagne, but a German raid succeeded in the Vosges and wrecked a French mine gallery. The German statement today follows:

"Field Marshal Duke Albrecht of Wuertemberg's Army—in the Ypres and Wytschaete sectors yesterday the artillery reached a considerable intensity. Southwest of Ypres English detachments attacked, but were repulsed by our fire, at one place in hand to hand fighting. South of Boesinghe several of our patrols entered hostile trenches and brought back prisoners, machine guns and other booty."

"Army group of Crown Prince Frederick William—On the Champagne and Meuse fronts there was only moderate activity. In the Vosges, northwest of Munster, German raiding detachments took a French sapping post by surprise. Near Frenelle, east of St. Die and south of the Rhine-Rhone Canal, French detachments attacking with strong artillery preparation were repulsed."

The British statement to-night follows:

"We successfully raided enemy trenches south of Ypres last night, inflicting many losses. The enemy, in turn, after a heavy bombardment, raided our lines near Boesinghe, causing a few casualties."

"There was considerable artillery activity on both sides during the day between the Ancre and the Somme and in the Loos area. East of Berles we effectively bombarded hostile trenches, and south of Ypres our fire dispersed a large enemy party."

The French and Belgian announcements to-night read:

French—"There was no noteworthy event to report for the day except a violent bombardment in the region of Hardaumont, on the right bank of the Meuse."

Belgian—"There was slight artillery activity to-day."

The statement issued to-day by the French War Office says:

"In the Champagne district, after a spirited bombardment, a detachment of the enemy endeavored last night to approach our lines to the west of Auberville, but they were easily repulsed."

"The night passed quietly on the remainder of the front, except in the region of Hardaumont and near Chambray, where the artillery of the enemy showed considerable activity."

AUSTRIANS ARE REPULSED.

Attack on Italians in Suggana Valley Is Broken Down.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The Italian War office issued to-day the following official statement:

"In the Suggana Valley an attack against our advanced positions on the Masso Torment in the evening was repulsed. Throughout yesterday the enemy shelled our positions on both sides of the Brenta Valley, but no attack materialized. On the remainder of the front there were some artillery actions, which were hindered by bad weather."

Last night an enemy attempt to attack our positions on Point 114 on the Brenva was checked promptly."

FRANCE WILL ALSO TILL ALL IDLE LAND

Christmas Economy Practised at Home, but Soldiers Will Fare Bountifully.

PARIS, Dec. 23.—The Minister of Commerce has introduced a bill empowering the Agricultural Department to put into cultivation all uncultivated land. This is in line with similar action taken in England.

The celebration of Christmas along the fighting front in France is regarded as of more importance than that of the people at home. Families everywhere are desisting themselves to send great quantities of comforts, delicacies and useful gifts to the men at the front.

In addition to this abnegation the new spirit of economy in France is making much reserve in buying. The growing weight of the war has limited shops anything in the nature of indulgence in festivities. The shops have unusually few patrons, and there will be no relaxation of the early closing hours of restaurants, none of the customary midnight suppers, no midnight masses and no watch-night meetings, the church authorities having decided to effect a saving in lighting and heating.

The provincial cities are following the example of Paris. The Government is deferring until the day after Christmas the compulsory restrictions in regard to private heating and lighting. This is the first time since the war began that children are feeling its consequences in the way of restriction or modification of Christmas distributions. In line with the new regime of economy the number of toys on sale is much reduced and the trade in them is diminished. Dreary weather conditions are forecast for Christmas.

BAN ON COTTON HOSE OFF.

England Will Permit Importation From This Country.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The order prohibiting the importation of cotton hose was revoked yesterday.

Early last October despatches were received in New York announcing that the British Government had prohibited the importation of cotton hose. A London despatch under date of December 2 said that on representations made by American exporters the British Government had decided to permit the importation of all orders for American cotton hose placed before October 2, 1916, and shipped before April 1, 1917.

2 WOMEN CONDEMNED TO DIE.

Convicted by French as Spies, Re-ported.

BERLIN (by wireless), Dec. 23.—A Overseas News Agency statement today says:

"French courts-martial have sentenced to death two more women, one known by name, born in Alsace of a French mother and a Luxembourg father, and another a widow named Thimothy of Swiss nationality."

"Both were accused of giving information to Germany regarding the positions of the French army."

Australian in Front Line.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—A House of Commons statement today says that a statement that the Commonwealth Government had sent a contingent of 100 men to the front line of the French army was correct.

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Silk Sports Suits, dashing models. 47.50
Shantung Silk Suits, dressy or sport types, plain elegant models. 47.50
Wool Jersey Cloth Suits, athletic types in rose, Copenhagen and green. 29.50 to 55.00
White Serge Suits, exclusive models. 35.00 to 45.00
White Silk Beach Coats, smart effects. 59.50 to 65.00
Angora Sports Coats, exclusive models in tan. 32.50

Blouses for Southern Wear—Main Floor

Riding or Golf Blouse, exclusive model of broadcloth silk, custom made. 7.75
Riding or Golf Blouse, exclusive model of linen, custom made. 4.50

Women's Bathing Costumes—2nd Floor

The new bathing costumes are now being displayed. Effective creations in Taffeta, Satin, Mohair and Jersey.
Wool Jersey Swimming Suits, smart high colorings. 6.75
Black Taffeta Slip-on Model, finished with Scotch plaid, silk. 10.50
Other models at higher prices.

Women's Sports Sweaters

—2nd Floor.
Lacy weave, sailor collar, pinch back models, with cash. In gold, rose, purple and Copenhagen. 23.75 to 57.50

Women's Skirts and Dresses—2nd Floor

"Khaki Kool" Skirts, sports types. 25.00 to 35.00
Crepe de Chine Sports Dresses. 65.00 to 79.50
Georgette Dresses, new favored colorings. 39.50 to 110.00
White Serge Dresses, beautifully tailored. 25.00 to 49.50

Shoes for Southern Wear—3rd Floor

High Cut White Kid Boots, faced, new tapering toe. French heels, light walking soles. 10.00
White Buckskin Sports Oxfords, arched last, new rubber soles, medium narrow toe, spring heel. 7.00

Women's Sports Stockings—Main Floor

Of English Cashmere, for golfing, white with plaid boots in various combinations. Pair 3.25
Of English Cashmere, white with solid colored vertical stripes or black with white vertical stripes. Pair 3.75

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